

# leadership candidate



**Phyllis McCracken, SSJ**

Current ministry:  
Saint Mary's Home of Erie  
*President and CEO*

Past ministries:  
Saint Mary's Home of Erie  
*Assistant and Acting Director of Nursing, Vice-President for Patient Care Services, Vice President for Special Projects and Vice President for Planning*  
Spencer Hospital  
*Staff Nurse, Hospice Consultant*  
Villa Maria College  
*Director Student Health Services*  
St. Martin's Health Center  
*Developer/Director*  
Villa Maria Convent  
*Director and Geriatric Staff Nurse in Rosary Hall*  
Villa Maria College & Edinboro State College  
*Director - Nursing Continuing Education*  
Erie Institute for Nursing  
*Director - Nursing Continuing Education*  
Saint Vincent Health Center  
*Admission Analyst, Quality Assurance*

*What personal challenges would elective office present to you?*

I would be ministering together with each of you in a new environment with different needs and with a new team but I feel confident those changes could quickly turn into opportunities. Rather than challenges, I would like to see these as opportunities with the grace of God.

*How do you balance the personal, ministerial, and spiritual components of life?*

Life is fluid (like a dance) and the movement calls forth from me a grounding in the spiritual components of my life. Our charism is a very important part of my life and grounds me in ministry and my personal life. I find prayer along with poetry and spiritual reading (of which I do a great deal) and an annual retreat to be important. I have had to learn to carve out prayer time and not let ministry overwhelm my life. If I have a fault in this area it is most likely not putting enough time in the personal component of my life. However, I have made a concerted effort to change that by going to plays and musical functions, shared social times with a group of other Sisters and Agregees.

*Sister Phyllis is, or has served, on many boards in the community including Saint Vincent Board of Incorporators, Saint Vincent Health Center Board of Trustees, HVA Senior Living Alliance, Villa Maria Center, Saint Mary's Home of Erie, Sisters of St. Joseph of Northwestern Pennsylvania, Sisters of St. Joseph Neighborhood Network and Pennsylvania Catholic Health Association. She is, or has been, a member of the National League for Nursing, Pennsylvania League for Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau Eta Xi Chapter (Charter Member), American College of Healthcare Administrators, NAB, Residential Care/Assisted Living Exam Committee of NAB, Erie Diocesan Medical Moral Ethics Committee, Rotary Club of Erie of which she is a Paul Harris Fellow, SSJNN East Advisory Committee and Friends of Saint Vincent. She was named one of the Outstanding Young Women of America in 1977. She received the Medaille D'Or Award from Saint Mary's Home of Erie in 2008. She is being recognized as one of the 2019 Women Making History by the Mercy Center for Women. Sister Phyllis earned a Diploma in Nursing from Spencer Hospital School of Nursing, a BS in Nursing from Villa Maria College, and a MS in Nursing Service Administration from Boston University. She is a licensed Registered Nurse, Nursing Home Administrator and Personal Care Home Administrator.*

*three words someone would use to describe you:*

***transparent, compassionate  
inclusive and forward thinking***